

REMARKS

The undersigned wishes to acknowledge the courteous treatment received by Mr. Belkin during an interview held with the Examiner on Aug. 27, 2002.

Claims 2 and 3 were rejected as being indefinite. These claims have been canceled.

Claim 1 was rejected as being anticipated by either Tarng-Lin or Sachathmakul et al.

Claims 1-3 were rejected as being anticipated by either of Arai or DeJong et al.

Claims 2-3 were rejected as being unpatentable over DeJong.

Lin discloses a nursing bottle with an adaptor for connection to a nipple. The adaptor is made of multiple parts (see Fig. 2) which must be assembled and lacks top and bottom chambers. In the present invention, the adaptor is a single, integral piece incorporating the top and bottom chambers and the flat seal between the chambers.

Sachathmakul shows an adjustable orientation device for coupling a nipple to a bottle. The device is made of multiple parts to be assembled (see Fig. 2). Other differences will be pointed out in discussion of the claims.

Arai has a coating container in which caps are employed apparently to dispense the liquid within. There is no nipple involved in this construction. Lacking are the top and bottom chambers separated by a flat, resilient seal having an opening therethrough for passage of the liquid. Other differences will be noted below.

DeJong shows a bottle adapter formed as "a single contiguous unit" (col. 3, lines 49-50) similar to the present invention in this regard. However, the attachment receiving portion of the adapter has multiple threaded rings for different types of nipple attachments and the upper chamber has a venturi type configuration (see Fig. 4). In the present invention, the top chamber has a smooth, cylindrical wall as seen in Fig. 3. In addition, the sealing flange in the present invention has flat top and bottom surfaces as seen Fig. 3. In DeJong, as seen in his Fig. 4, only the bottom surface of the flange is flat. The top surface is at an angle forming a triangular shape. This shape reduces the resilience of the flange and there would result in less effective sealing with the bottle opening.

In view of the differences between the present invention and the art as discussed above, claim 1 has been extensively amended to recite these differences, claims 2 and 3 have been canceled, and new claims 4 and 5 submitted, also including these differences. Claim 1, as amended, recites that the top chamber has an inner smooth cylindrical wall and a larger diameter than the bottom chamber. Since the adapter is designed to be used on narrow opening bottles, the larger top chamber should provide a reservoir for a smoother flow pattern. In DeJong, the upper chamber 62 (see Fig. 4) is venturi shaped and would not be likely to provide the type of flow obtained in the present invention.

New claim 4 emphasizes the resilient sealing flange with flat top and bottom surfaces, while depending claim 5 adds the details of the top chamber and the relative diameters of the chambers, features not found or suggested in the art of record.

Stephan
09/927,692

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the claims remaining are drawn to patentable subject matter and should be allowed.

A conscientious effort has been made to place this application in condition for immediate allowance. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned if further changes are required to obtain allowance of the application.

A favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



ALFRED M. WALKER
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 29,983
225 Old Country Road
Melville, NY 11747-2712
Tel 516-361-8737

Dated: Sept. 6, 2002

In the Claims

Marked up version showing changes:

1. (amended) An integral single piece adapter ring with internal and external threads, for adapting a conventional baby bottle nipple-and-collar to fit a conventional narrow-mouthed threaded beverage bottle top, said adapter comprising:

a cylindrical ring (2) having an internal void (3) therein; [and having]

(10)

female threads on an inner wall (4) of said ring (2);

said female threads for mating with the male bottle-top threads of a conventional narrow-diameter threaded-cap beverage container (8) said female threads on inner wall (4) for permitting alternate user mounting and user removal of said cylindrical ring (2) respectively onto and from said conventional beverage bottle (8); [and where]

said cylindrical ring (2) having external male threads on an outer wall of said ring (2); said male threads for alternate user mounting and removal respectively onto and from internal female threads on a conventional baby-bottle nipple collar (6); [said cylindrical ring (2) having]

a resilient circumferential sealing flange (5), flat on top and bottom surfaces, extending radially inward from said inner wall of said ring (2);

said flange (5) having a central aperture for permitting fluid flow to a conventional baby-bottle nipple (7) therethrough; said flange (5) for sealably contacting

the an upper edge of the conventional beverage bottle spout when said cylindrical ring (2) and said conventional baby-bottle collar are in their respective mounted positions[.] ; and

a top chamber above said sealing flange (5) and a bottom chamber below said sealing flange (5), said top chamber having a smooth, cylindrical interior wall and a diameter larger than the diameter of said bottom chamber.

Cancel claims 2 and 3 and substitute the following:

4. (new) An integral, single piece adaptor for adapting a baby bottle nipple for use on and with a narrow-mouthed threaded beverage bottle top comprising:

a circular ring divided in the interior thereof into a top and a bottom chamber by an inwardly extending resilient sealing flange flat on top and bottom surfaces for engaging and sealing a top opening of said beverage bottle top, said flange having an opening for passage of liquid;

threads along an inner surface of said bottom chamber for engaging threads on the outside of said beverage bottle top;

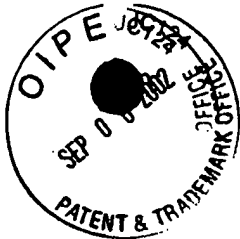
a collar formed on the outside of said ring adjacent a lower opening into said bottom chamber; and

threads on the outside of said ring above said collar for engagement with said nipple.

Stephan
09/927,692

5. (new) The integral, single piece adaptor of claim 4 in which said top chamber has a smooth cylindrical interior wall surface with a larger inside diameter than said bottom chamber.

Stephan
09/927,692



RECEIVED

SEP 11 2002

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700